

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview recently conducted in the referenced application. As the result of that interview, Claim 1 is here amended to clarify the invention covered by that claim and new claim 4 is added to further define the present invention. Claims 1-4 now remain in this application, with Claim 3 previously allowed.

Claim 1 stands rejected as anticipated by *Latimer* (3,244,795). The rejection, as possibly applied to amended Claim 1 and to dependent Claim 2, is respectfully traversed.

The Applicant has disclosed and is claiming a flat flexible cable in which the widths of the conductor tracks are staggered in an arithmetic sequence. With this arrangement, it is possible to contact the relatively wide conductor tracks more often than the narrow ones with equidistantly-arranged contacts of a connector, so that a correspondingly stronger current can be transferred both in the conductor track and in the connector while retaining the advantages of identical contacts in the connectors. This arrangement is described in the specification at the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3.

The Examiner's Response to Arguments in the last Office Action asserted that "the widths of the conductor tracks in *Latimer* are staggered in an arithmetic sequence". The Applicant disagrees with that analysis of *Latimer*, finding in that reference no mention whatsoever of conductor tracks having different widths. However, during the telephone interview with the Examiner, the undersigned learned that the Examiner was interpreting "width" in *Latimer* to mean the locations of conductor tracks across the width of the entire cable. With that interpretation, the lateral location of the conductor track 15 from the longitudinal sides of the printed-circuit units 12-13 in *Latimer*, for example, is

indeed off set with respect to the lateral location of conductor track 16. Nonetheless, that interpretation of *Latimer* is not what the present Applicant invented, disclosed, and sought to protect in Claims 1 and 2.

Accordingly, the Applicant is here amending Claim 1 to recite that the widths of the conductor tracks are variable and are staggered in an arithmetic sequence. *Latimer* clearly fails to anticipate a flat flexible cable having the limitation of amended Claim 1, including conductor tracks of variable widths. For that reason, Claim 1 as currently amended is novel over *Latimer*.

Claim 2 stands rejected as unpatentable over *Latimer*, the Examiner asserting that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use electrical connectors to make electrical contact with the conductor tracks of *Latimer*. This rejection is respectfully traversed, as possibly applied to Claim 2 dependent on amended Claim 1. As pointed out above, *Latimer* fails to disclose a flat flexible cable having conductor tracks variable in widths and nothing in that reference would have taught one of ordinary skill the advantages in making such an untaught modification of the reference. Accordingly, Claim 2 is patentable over *Latimer*.

NEW CLAIM 4

New Claim 4 is derived from Claim 1. However, instead of reciting that the widths of conductor tracks are variable as in Claim 1, Claim 4 requires that the widths of conductor tracks in one plane are staggered in an arithmetic sequence. Claim 4 also requires (as does Claim 1) that the spacings between adjacent conductor tracks are of the same size or are also staggered in an arithmetic sequence.

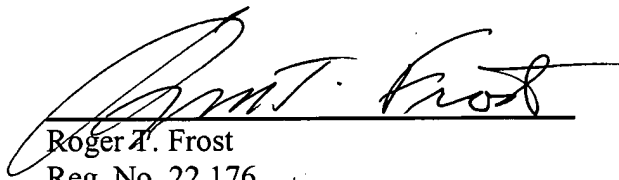
Latimer fails to anticipate or make obvious a flat flexible cable having the structural and functional limitations set forth in New Claim 4. The widths of individual conductor tracks, i.e. the conductive foils 15, 16, 17, of *Latimer* in any one plane (or, indeed, in all the planes) are not disclosed as anything other than identical. Although *Latimer* does disclose arranging the conductors in different levels of the stack to follow special predetermined paths (column 3, lines 37-39), to minimize capacitive coupling between the different levels, nothing in that reference discloses or suggests staggering the widths, i.e., the lateral dimension, of conductor tracks in an arithmetic sequence. Accordingly, the flat flexible cable defined in Claim 4 is both novel and obvious over *Latimer*.

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. The Applicant submits that all claims in this application are in condition for allowance and solicits a notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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